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Application No. 10/673769
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. 011.2B-11338-US01

Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A thermal spray powder comprising:
molybdenum disulfide particles composed of molybdenum disulfide; and
a coating layer provided on a surface of each of the molybdenum disulfide particles,
wherein the coating layer is composed of a metal that is softened or melted at a temperature
lower than the heat decomposition temperature of the molybdenum disulfide,
wherein the percentage of particles having a particle size of 5 μ m or smaller contained in
the thermal spray powder is no more than 5%, and the percentage of particles having a particle
size of 75 μ m or larger contained in the thermal spray powder is no more than 5%.
2. (Currently amended) The thermal spray powder according to claim 1, wherein the
coating layer is provided on the entire surface of the each molybdenum disulfide particle.
3. (Original) The thermal spray powder according to claim 1, wherein the content of the
molybdenum disulfide in the thermal spray powder is 30% to 90% by weight, and the content of
the metal in the thermal spray powder is 10% to 70% by weight.
4. (Original) The thermal spray powder according to claim 3, wherein the content of the
molybdenum disulfide is 40% to 80% by weight, and the content of the metal is 20% to 60% by
weight.
5. (Original) The thermal spray powder according to claim 1, wherein the metal is
copper.
6. (Original) The thermal spray powder according to claim 5, wherein the content of the
molybdenum disulfide in the thermal spray powder is 30% to 90% by weight, and the content of
the copper in the thermal spray powder is 10% to 70% by weight.
7. (Original) The thermal spray powder according to claim 6, wherein the content of the
molybdenum disulfide is 40% to 80% by weight, and the content of the copper is 20% to 60% by

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weight.

8. (Canceled) A process for producing a thermal spray powder, the process comprising:
preparing particles composed of molybdenum disulfide; and
providing a coating layer on a surface of each of the particles by an electroless plating method, wherein the coating layer is composed of a metal that is softened or melted at a temperature lower than the heat decomposition temperature of the molybdenum disulfide.

9. (Canceled) A process for producing a thermal spray powder, the process comprising:
preparing particles composed of molybdenum disulfide; and
providing a coating layer composed of copper on a surface of each of the particles by an electroless plating method.

10. (Canceled) A method for thermal spraying a thermal spray powder, the method comprising:

Preparing the thermal spray powder, wherein the thermal spray powder includes:
particles composed of molybdenum disulfide; and
a coating layer provided on a surface of each of the particles, wherein the coating layer is composed of a metal that is softened or melted at a temperature lower than the heat decomposition temperature of the molybdenum disulfide; and
feeding the thermal spray powder to a flame in order to soften or melt the thermal spray powder, wherein a cylindrical air stream passes around the flame, and
wherein the thermal spray powder fed to the flame passes through the inside of the air stream to be softened or melted in the inside of the air stream, and the powder is subsequently sprayed into a substrate.

11. (New) The thermal spray powder according to claim 1, wherein the coating layer is formed by electroless plating.